

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

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TAGS: OVIP(MONDALE, WALTER F.), IS
SUBJ: VP MONDALE VISIT - MORE BACKGROUND AND TALKING POINTS
FOR BEERSHEVA VISIT

REF: TEL AVIV 7830

1. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND FOR BEERSHEVA TRIP:

-- BEERSHEVA, CAPITAL OF ISRAEL'S NEGEV REGION. NAME MEANS
"WELL OF THE OATH" ASCRIBED TO ABRAHAM. SEE GENESIS 21:27,
21:35, 21:38, 26:25, 28:10 AND JOSHUA 19:1 FOR BIBLICAL
REFERENCES TO PLACE. APPROXIMATELY 100,000 INHABITANTS
DRAWN FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES, CULTURES AND EDUCATIONAL AND
SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS. AIM OF CITY IS TO INTEGRATE
DIVERSE PEOPLES INTO ENTITY AT HEART OF ISRAEL'S EFFORT TO
MAKE DESERT BLOOM.

-- BEN GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV IS SPEARHEAD OF
ISRAEL'S EFFORT TO DEVELOP VAST DESERT IN SOUTH OF COUNTRY.
IT HAS ALSO ASSUMED THE MISSION OF BRIDGING THE GAP CREATED
BY POPULATION DIVERSITY. IT ACHIEVED UNIVERSITY STATUS IN
1969 AND HAS GROWN TO SERVE 4,200 STUDENTS, ABOUT 1,200 OF
WHOM ARE "DISADVANTAGED".

-- HUBERT H. HUMPHREY CENTER OF SOCIAL ECOLOGY WILL FOCUS ON
POPULATION DIVERSITY TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF EDUCATION FOR
DISADVANTAGED, SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF INTEGRATION ECONOMIC OPPORTUN-
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ITY AND DEVELOPMENT. MAJOR REASON FOR NAMING CENTER AFTER
HUMPHREY WAS HIS COMMITMENT TO ATTACKING SIMILAR PROBLEMS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

-- VISIT TO BEERSHEVA IS ESPECIALLY FITTING, SINCE THIS CITY,
PERHAPS MORE THAN ISRAEL'S OTHER MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS,
SYMBOLIZES THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF ISRAEL OVER THE PAST 30

YEARS. ALTHOUGH ITS KNOWN HISTORY GOES BACK 6,000 YEARS, IN 1950 ITS POPULATION WAS ONLY A FEW THOUSAND. NOW, ALMOST 100,000, SERVING A REGION WITH CLOSE TO ONE QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE, BEERSHEVA IS BLOOMING IN THE DESERT, AN INSPIRING TESTIMONY TO THE TALENTS AND HARD WORK OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION.

-- IN MANY WAYS THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF THE DRAMATIC GROWTH OF BEERSHEVA IS BEN GURION UNIVERSITY, FOUNDED 13 YEARS AGO. WITH ITS INSPIRING ARCHITECTURE AND ITS SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SUBJECTS OF RELEVANCE TO ITS LOCATION, CLIMATE AND DIVERSE POPULATION, THIS YOUNG INSTITUTION REMINDS ME IN MANY WAYS OF OUR LAND GRANT COLLEGES IN AMERICA, WHICH ALSO WERE FOUNDED WITH A SPECIAL GOAL TO DEVELOP THE LAND AND HELP THE PEOPLE LIVING ON THAT LAND, ESPECIALLY THE DISADVANTAGED.

MY VISIT HERE IS ALSO PERHAPS ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE, BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND THAT AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF YOUR FACULTY HAS BEEN TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT YOUR CURRICULUM IS QUITE SIMILAR IN MANY RESPECTS TO OUR LIBERAL ARTS APPROACH TO HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL.

-- HOW IT WOULD HAVE PLEASED HUBERT HUMPHREY IF HE COULD HAVE SEEN WHAT YOU ARE CREATING HERE, ESPECIALLY THE CENTER NAMED IN HIS MEMORY AND HONOR, DESIGNED TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF THE DISADVANTAGED, OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, PROBLEMS WHICH THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER WERE AT THE TOP OF LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR HIS OWN STATE AND NATION*

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